Class 4 English: The Mechanics of Explanation Texts

Learning objective: To identify, explain, and apply the structural and linguistic features of an explanation text.

Read the text carefully and answer all questions. Use your best handwriting and check your spelling. You have 30 minutes to complete this assessment.

How a Honeybee Makes Honey

First, a worker bee flies from flower to flower to collect nectar. She uses her long, straw-like tongue to sip the sweet liquid. Next, the nectar is stored in a special honey stomach inside the bee's body. While she travels back to the hive, enzymes in her stomach begin to change the nectar into simple sugars. Finally, when she reaches the hive, she passes the nectar to other bees. They fan the liquid with their wings to evaporate the water, turning it into thick, golden honey.

Word bank: Chronological · Conjunctions · Diagram · Present tense · Technical vocabulary · Subheadings

1. Identify two features of an explanation text used in the passage above. (2 marks)

2. Why do explanation texts use chronological order? Give one reason. (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one example of a time adverbial used in the passage to signal the order of events. (1 mark)

4. Explain why 'technical vocabulary' (such as 'enzymes' or 'nectar') is important in an explanation text. (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage, 'They fan the liquid with their wings to evaporate the water, turning it into thick, golden honey,' adding a causal conjunction (e.g., because, so, therefore) to improve the explanation. (2 marks)

6. If Bea the honeybee wanted to explain how a sunflower grows, what two visual features could she add to her text to help a reader understand it better? (2 marks)

7. Write a short explanation text (4-6 sentences) describing 'How a Caterpillar Becomes a Butterfly'. Remember to use a title, subheadings, and present tense verbs. (5 marks)

8. Why is the present tense used throughout this text rather than the past tense? (3 marks)

9. If an explanation text is unclear, why might a reader struggle to follow the process? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple diagram of a flower with labels, showing how a bee might collect nectar, as if you were illustrating an explanation text for a younger student.

Extension challenge: Total: /25